

**Figure 5.71** Bath, The Circus.



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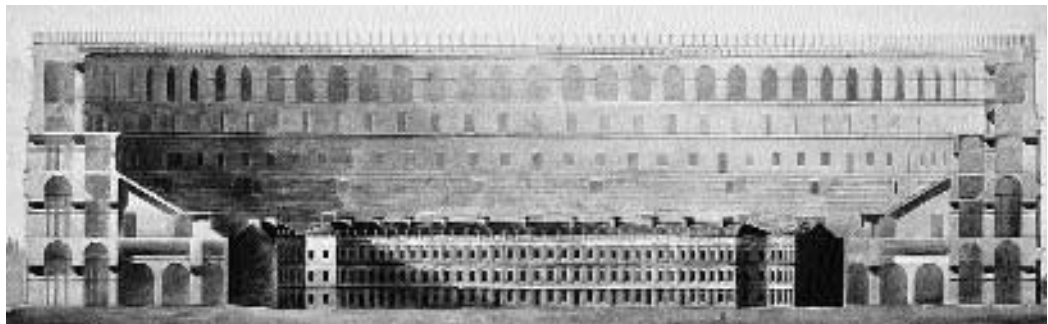
change are men and women: humankind with its greed, its intelligence, as well as a sometimes surprising degree of generosity. Describing the city in terms



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of its heart, lungs and arteries does not help in the analysis of the problems of city centre decline, pollution and gridlock on city streets. Such terms for the parts of the city based on human anatomy, however, may have value in suggesting ideas for problem solution through analogy.<sup>32</sup> For analytical purposes, the most fruitful metaphor from nature is the ecosystem, particularly the tropical rain forest. The rain forest is a stable arrangement of flora and fauna, delicately balanced, requiring no inputs of energy and capable of dealing with its own pollution. Such open systems can be analysed and their components defined in terms of their relationship to other components. Systemic analysis, which need not necessarily be mathematical modelling, is the test for the validity of concepts today where the ethos is the

**Figure 5.73** Comparison of The Circus at Bath with the Coliseum, Rome.



necessity to find solutions to urban problems which add no further burden to a global ecosystem under considerable strain.

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